Candlemas Day

Over the years I have collected a number of sayings and beliefs concerning the weather lore associated with Candlemas Day, February 2 in the Western Church but February 15 in the Eastern Church. The information came from many countries: Canada, England, Scotland, Germany, Austria, Yugoslavia, Romania, and Russia. In various ways they all express the same basic belief that if it is fair and clear on Candlemas Day then there will be a continuat of winter for about six weeks more. I have to find out anything about when or why this began. Usually, a saying like that originates at the time of some event in church history, such as St. Swithin's Day.

Sometime I'll get all of my material together and then send you a copy of it. In the meantime, I am enclosing two from German sources. It is obvious that the "groundhog" in America takes the place of the "Dachs", badger, in Germany.

M.R. Wehr